



City Manager's Office
Communications Division
PO Box 1810
Wilmington, NC 28402-1810

910 342-2736
910 341-5839 fax
wilmingtonnc.gov
Dial 711 TTY/Voice

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City begins downtown sewer repairs

The first major step of sewer repairs for the downtown area started Tuesday, May 22, as crews began inserting cameras into sewer pipes through manholes to check the condition of the pipes and determine the best way to make repairs.

The project is the first step in implementing recommendations that came out of a review of the city's entire sewer system, which identified a list of prioritized repairs. The review found that the city's downtown aging sewer system needs to be repaired first.

Over the next two months, cameras will be used to get a comprehensive look at the pipes in the aging downtown sewer system so that a plan of action can be developed about what types of repairs need to be done and in what order.

These activities will take place in an area roughly bounded by Nunn, Red Cross and 6th streets. HydroMax USA of Charlotte has been subcontracted for the project. Front Street will be one of the first areas worked on to make sure sewer repairs and beautification efforts are done at the same time.

Traffic closures are not anticipated, but partial lane closures will be required. A three-man crew and two trucks will be used – one to clean the sewer pipe and one to insert a camera into the pipes through manholes.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of July. Preliminary design will be completed by the end of October with construction scheduled to begin in mid-2008.